

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

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S E C R E T LUSAKA 2670

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, AO, CG, ZA
SUBJ: ANGOLAN, ZAIRIAN AND ZAMBIAN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 185974

1. SUMMARY: GRZ FOREIGN MINISTRY IS FOLLOWING WITH INTEREST
MOVES TOWARD ZAIRE-ANGOLA RECONCILIATION, BUT SEES NO ROLE
FOR GRZ AT THIS STAGE. LATER, IF ASKED BY THE TWO PARTIES,
GRZ PROBABLY WOULD BE WILLING TO DO ITS BIT. END SUMMARY.

2. WE DISCUSSED WITH ZIMBA, UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL
AFFAIRS, STATE OF PLAY IN MOVES TOWARD ZAIRE-ANGOLAN REC-
ONCILIATION (REFTEL). HE APOLOGIZED PROFUSELY FOR MISSED
APPOINTMENTS LAST WEEK.

3. ZIMBA WAS WELL INFORMED ABOUT RECENT CONTACTS BETWEEN
ZAIRE AND ANGOLA BUT ONLY FROM PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS. HE
IMMEDIATELY FOCUSED ON THE OPENING OF THE BENGUELA AS OF
MOST CONCERN TO ZAMBIA, CONVERGING WELL KNOWN GROUND ON
THE IMPORTANCE OF THAT RAILWAY TO ZAMBIA GIVEN THE
DEFICIENCIES OF THE DAR ES SALAAM ROUTE. ZIMBA SAID HIS
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GOVERNMENT HAD NOT PLAYED A RECENT ROLE IN GETTING ZAIRE
AND ANGOLA TOGETHER; HOWEVER, GRZ WELCOMED ANY MOVEMENT
TOWARDS NORMALIZATION BETWEEN THE TWO. HE QUESTIONED
WHETHER THE GRZ WOULD BE ASKED TO BECOME INVOLVED GIVEN
LINGERING ZAIRIAN SUSPICIONS THAT ZAMBIA HAD TURNED A
BLIND EYE TO THE MOVEMENT OF KATANGESE THROUGH ZAMBIAN
TERRITORY. HOWEVER, IF ASKED, HE WAS QUITE SURE THAT HIS

GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO BE HELPFUL. OFF THE TOP OF HIS HEAD, HE COULD NOT SEE ROOM FOR ZAMBIAN ADHERENCE TO A ZAIRE-ANGOLAN AGREEMENT. HE SAID THIS WAS SOMETHING HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH HIS SUPERIORS IN THE MINISTRY AND STATE HOUSE. HE HAD NO VIEWS ON NEXT STEPS.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THIS INITIAL PROBE SHOULD BE FOLLOWED UP WHEN AND IF THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF A MORE PRECISE ROLE FOR ZAMBIA. TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE ZAMBIAN COOPERATION SHOULD IF AT ALL POSSIBLE BE SOLICITED BY ANGOLA AND ZAIRE. FOR OUR PART, WE CAN PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN NUDGING ZAMBIA ALONG THE ROAD TO MORE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT. END COMMENT.
CLINGERMAN

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